

***VOLUME XXXI***  
***NUMBER 11***  
***November 2024***

The mission of the Waimea United Church of Christ is to provide, through Jesus Christ, the means by which people grow spiritually, thereby preparing and empowering them to witness to God's love, to find the needs of the community, and to minister to them.

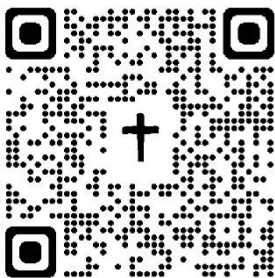
### **Waimea United Church of Christ**

Located at the corner of  
Makeke and Tsuchiya  
Roads, Waimea, Kaua'i.

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-  
Percival, Pastor

(808) 338-9962  
[www.waimeachurch.org](http://www.waimeachurch.org)  
PO Box 457  
Waimea, HI 96796

Sunday Morning Worship,  
10 am  
Tuesday Morning Bible  
Study, 9 am



# THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you all know, my wife Helen came back to us two weeks ago after her long trip around the world—Seattle, Germany, Doha, Malaysia to visit the family there. On the way out to the airport to pick her up in Lihue, I stopped at a local market on the way just to get her a drink to have in the car on the drive back to Waimea.

As I entered the store, I got stopped by an ukulele band and a hula dancer blocking the entrance. The band was quite good, and I recognized many of the players. At the end of the dance, the patrons of the store cheered out a loud “Hana Hou!” I was free thereafter to grab a cold 99 cent green tea from the refrigerator aisle and check out. I saw five open lanes to check out—unheard of at this particular market. I could just walk straight up and pay. “Now, there is something to celebrate!” I thought to myself.

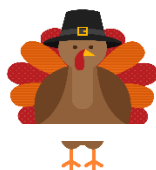
I put down my dollar and four pennies to pay for the lonesome green tea. All of the sudden, I was bagged by a store bagger. She approached me in her uniform with a huge colorful gift bag. She smiled broadly as she pushed the bag into my hands: “All of our customers get a free gift today at our ‘Grand Re-Opening.’” The bag was heavy. Inside was a litre of sparkling water, a bag of popcorn, cookies, fruit bars, and gummies. With the actual lovely gift bag included in the total, I was looking at \$30+ worth of merchandise.

“Ummm, I only spent a dollar for a drink, and I am not even a member or regular shopper at your store,” I hedged before accepting.

“Makes no difference! Maybe you will become a member!”

Just because I live twenty-five miles away in another town, I guess I could shop there regularly. Maybe. Sometimes. I finally accepted the gift bag.

I continued on to the airport to pick up Helen. She saw the popcorn in the gift bag and opened it for a snack to go with the tea. It was in fact a happy bit of grace to have stopped for the green tea after all.



*Continued on back page*



# Scriptures and Sermons for November 2024

Nov 3 Romans 12:9-21  
"Bless, And Do Not Curse"

Nov 10 Romans 13:1-7  
"What to Do About Government"

Nov 17 Romans 13:8-10  
"Simply Love"

Nov 24 Romans 13:11-14:4  
"The Day Is Near"

Nov 28 (Thanksgiving)  
Matthew 6:25-33 "  
"What You'll Eat Tomorrow"

Dec 1 Jeremiah 33:14-16  
"Righteous" (Hanging of Greens)

The "Hanging of the Greens," when we set out the Christmas decorations and tree, will be the first Sunday of Advent, December 1st, after worship.



The Tuesday morning Bible Study group meets in Baird Hall at 9 am to discuss the Scripture for the upcoming Sunday sermon. Come share your inspirations and insights with the Pastor. Everyone is welcome.

### Mahalo:

- ♥ Thank you, Sue Carlson, for taking a picture and printing out the Communion Table set-up for the Deacons. It is now hanging in the Deacons' closet in the narthex,
- ♥ Thank you, Kay, for teaching the kids to make a beautiful tree with construction paper to show the roots and branches of Christian faith in Sunday School!
- ♥ Thank you for your Neighbors in Need offering gifts! We are still wondering if other gifts are out there before totaling the fund.

# Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Mary Hayes

Deacon: Joy Whitehill

Deacons: David Somers, Kevin Christian, Mary Hayes

Church Council Meeting: December 1<sup>st</sup> via Zoom Hybrid at 11:30 am



Betty Smith, (former pastor's wife) Rest in Peace; Nancy P. healing from infection in arm; Marsha Kiest healing from hip surgery; Helen Masaki; Irwin Oyama one year check-up; Melissa B., cancer recovery; Susie Somers, cancer recovery;

Ruth's daughter, Carol Alvesos (brain tumor); Mike Matutino, cancer recovery; Leinani Springer, cancer recovery; Galen Kaohi, cancer recovery; Norma Watanabe cancer recovery; Jared's father (stroke); Lucia's son Michael for healing; Mahea's mother (stroke); Helen's mother (heart); Kim H-P for a new job; Kristen to fight infection; Rob Carlson; Beth Hanashiro (headaches); An end finally to the pandemic; Healthcare workers; Those suffering from spiritual distress; Our local, state, and national leaders, our men and women in the military fighting terrorism, and a speedy end to wars everywhere.

### Calendar Notes:

The Christmas Eve Service will feature the theatre play "Christmas Letters." Characters from the Christmas story such as Herod, the Innkeeper, Shepherd, and the like will share their annual Christmas letter--this is inspired by the book *Season's Greetings* by Ruth L. Boling. Be overjoyed with the Christmas spirit of giving if you are asked to play a part!

# Hau'oli la Hanau!

## Novemapa

4<sup>th</sup> Mart Vidinha  
9<sup>th</sup> Elaine Ganeko  
12<sup>th</sup> Nelson Keller Jr.  
19<sup>th</sup> Christopher Aguilar  
20<sup>th</sup> Shelly Erdmann  
27<sup>th</sup> Hana Christian  
28<sup>th</sup> Sue Carlson

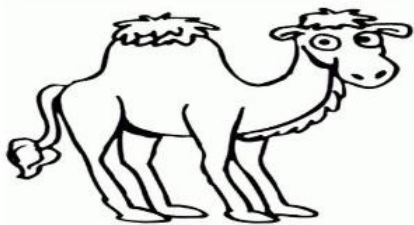


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## Be Like the Wise Men

Hump it over to Waimea UCC

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3-6pm Aha Mokuuni



**Rev. Dr. Zoughbi, director of the  
Bethlehem Wi'Am Center for Peace**

Is flying in to be with us live and in person to discuss the  
Christian response to the crisis in the Middle East today.

Worship and Fellowship Meal, too!

Please bring your favorite dessert along if you like.

Waimea United Church of Christ  
Corner of Makeke & Tsuchiya in Waimea  
(808) 338-9962

## Book Club

November's choice is *Remember* by Lisa Genova. Lucia Laidlaw will host on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. This month's book club entry is a non-fiction explanation about how memories work. Lisa Genova is a neuroscientist and the acclaimed novelist of *Still Alice*. She explains how, why, where, and when memories are stored. She explains what is normal forgetting (we all do) and what is forgetting due to dementia. She discusses why memories are not a reliable witness to our lives and how memories can be manipulated or reshaped. All are welcome to join.

## News from the Pews

- \* Betty Smith's memorial service is being held on November 2nd in Washington State at the Cordata Presbyterian Church. Condolences to the entire Smith Family.
- \* Great to have Melissa C.'s parents with us in worship all the way from Florida. They were here when both recent hurricanes struck, but their home is okay.
- \* Our brother in Christ Chris Cook is writing a new book that includes the history of the early missionaries that came to Waimea, the Whitneys and the Ruggles. During his research, he discovered letters that were written between Waimea and the Holy Land (Israel/Palestine) by the early missionaries. After sending missionaries to the Sandwich Isles (Hawaii), the mission sending body (ABCFM) sent a mission to the Levant. The two missions stayed in contact with one another. So, our connection to the Holy Land Christian mission goes back two hundred years!
- \* If you are missing Jared M. one Sunday, he is more than likely preaching at our sister church Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational UCC. Next time you see him, tell him how much you miss him!
- \* Congratulations to the Snyder Family as Ellie and Clint are now pregnant with their fourth child. We will keep you posted!
- \* Our annual Thanksgiving worship with our sister church Waimea Baptist will be at our church on the Smith Lanai at 9:30am. It will include a shared brunch (potluck style), singing, and shared prayers of thanksgiving to God in the form of a special art project. All are invited—bring your neighbors and friends! Thank God!
- \* **PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

*Continued from front page*

I started to think about the church on the drive back home. Maybe we need to have a grand reopening every Sunday. People come to church expecting to get only a little something for the journey along the way but are graced with so much more—a gift bag full of love, hope, peace, and joy. The world could certainly use that exceptional grace! Yup, let's just pour that out on people! They might think that they are not deserving or that they may never come back, but we celebrate our Sunday grand re-opening that way just the same.

Hana hou, Pastor Olaf

◆  
**DOMINOES**  
**TUESDAY, 7-9 PM**  
**AT BAIRD HALL**



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Christ  
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